

**PATENT**

Atty Docket No.: 100111406-2

App. Ser. No.: 09/995,320

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is also respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24 and 35 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 9, 19, 21, and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-18, 20, 22, and 24-35 remain pending, of which claims 1, 7, 14, 18, 24, and 35 are independent.

No new matter has been introduced by way of the claim amendments; entry thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9, 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 7-9, 14-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Sullivan (2003/0093320).

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sullivan.

**Drawings**

Once again, the Office Action did not indicate as to whether the Formal Drawings submitted on February 17, 2004 have been accepted. It is assumed that the Formal Drawings have been accepted because the Office Action does not cite to any specific errors or omissions pertaining to the Formal Drawings. Should this assumption be in error, the Examiner is respectfully requested to raise any potential objections in the next communication.

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**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph**

The Office Action rejected claims 7 and 24 as allegedly being indefinite because of a lack of antecedent basis for the term "the standardized transaction-tax interface model" and the unclear language of "at least one other transaction-tax-related application". Claims 7 and 24 have been amended to be in better compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 24 is requested.

The Office Action also rejected claim 8 because of confusion over the "standardized transaction-tax interface model." Claim 8 has been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The test for determining if a reference anticipates a claim, for purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, is whether the reference discloses all the elements of the claimed combination, or the mechanical equivalents thereof functioning in substantially the same way to produce substantially the same results. As noted by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist and Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984), in evaluating the sufficiency of an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Court stated:

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.

Therefore, if the cited reference does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, then the cited reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention and, thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited reference.

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Claims 7-9 and 14-35

Claims 7-9 and 14-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as allegedly being anticipated by Sullivan (2003/0093320).

Claims 7-9

The Office Action rejected previously-presented claims 7 and 8 based upon FIGs. 1 and 2 in Sullivan, which allegedly show the storage of "transaction related data... according to a data warehouse model" and the exchange of "data to be stored between transaction tax applications (for example, 270-274, tax calculator) according to a standardized data model." It is respectfully submitted that FIGs. 1 and 2, and supporting text, in Sullivan clearly show a single transaction tax processor 201 for operating and maintaining a plurality of alleged transaction tax databases and applications (for example, 270-274, tax calculator). Therefore, at best, all such transaction tax databases and applications inherently use the same standardized data model for communicating with each other because they are all operated and maintained by the same transaction tax processor 201. It then follows that it is not inherent to have different data models for the transaction tax databases and applications in Sullivan (for example, the alleged data warehouse data model), only to have such models mapped to a standardized data model in order to effectuate communications between the various databases and applications in the transaction tax processor 201. In contrast, amended claim 7 recites, *inter alia*,

providing a standardized transaction-tax interface data model..., the standardized transaction-tax interface data model being different from the standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model [according to which data is stored in the data warehouse].

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It is anticipated that Sullivan may be broadly interpreted to show each database and application in Sullivan's processor 201 as having an inherently different data model because it deals with different data, as similarly interpreted by the Office Action (p. 3) for the rejection of claim 21. However, applications having different data do not necessarily need a standardized interface model to transfer data between the applications. For example, each application in Sullivan may have its own built-in data translator or converter without the need for a standardized interface model. In another example, multiple applications in Sullivan may have different data, but they all may use the same data model that allows data to freely transfer between application and negates the need for a standardized interface model for such data transfer.

To allege a first inherency of different data models for different applications so as to support an alleged second inherency of a standardized interface model for communication among the different applications is to needlessly complicate Sullivan's transaction tax compliance system 200 without any proper support therein. Indeed, Sullivan teaches away from such complicated multiple inherencies by clearly showing in FIG. 1 a processor 201 having multiple applications that can communicate with one another without the need for a standardized interface model. Although paragraph [0037] in Sullivan states that databases and applications in the processor 201 can operate on multiple computers, as cited in the Office Action (p. 6), it remains at best inherent to have those multiple computers using the same data model to simplify Sullivan's transaction tax compliance system 200 absent any explicit disclosure in Sullivan of multiple different data models and an additional standardized data model to support the different data models. After all, Sullivan's system

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200 is intended to *ease* the transaction tax compliance burdens rather than to further complicate such burdens.

To further reject the previously-presented claim 9, the Office Action also alleged that it is inherent for the data warehouse data model (that is, the standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model) to comprise equals or a subset of the set of elements in the interface data model (that is, the standardized transaction-tax interface data model) just because data is passed through the interface data model for storage in the data warehouse. It is respectfully submitted that such alleged inherency is incomplete. For example, it also could be inherent to have more data elements in the data warehouse data model than in the interface data model because those data elements already could have resided in the data warehouse before they are passed through the interface data model for transmission to other warehouse applications in the processor 21. Because there are numerous possibilities for the make-up of the data elements in the data warehouse data model, it cannot be said that one possibility is inherent over another absent an explicit acknowledgement in Sullivan. Therefore, any allegation of inherency with regard to the make-up of data elements for the data warehouse data model to read on the claimed language is without support in Sullivan. Claim 9 has been canceled, and its subject matter has been incorporated in amended claim 7.

Amended claim 7 further recites that the mapping includes,

- reading an output mapping definition;
- deriving source information from the data elements of the transaction-tax-related data warehouse data model based on the read output mapping definition; and
- mapping the source information to the data elements of the standardized transaction-tax interface model.

It is respectfully submitted that because Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from the

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standardized-transaction-tax interface data model, it follows that Sullivan also does not disclose the aforementioned details of the mapping.

In contrast to allegations of inherent features in Sullivan, amended claim 7 expressly recites: a) a standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model for a transaction-tax-related application in a data warehouse that is different from the standardized transaction-tax interface model; b) mapping data elements in the standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model to data elements in the standardized transaction-tax interface data model to enable communications between the two models; and c) the set of transaction-tax-related data elements of the tax-related data warehouse data model comprises, equals or is a subset of the set of transaction-tax-related data elements of a standardized transaction-tax interface data model.

Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 7, and the alleged inherency in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 7 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 and dependent claim 8 are allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

**Claims 14-17**

Claim 14 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

... a data record according to a standardized transaction-tax interface data model,..., each of the transaction-tax-related applications uses an application-specific data model that is different from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model and mapped to or from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model.

As explained earlier with reference to amended claim 7, Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from

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the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model. In contrast, amended claim 14 explicitly recites a standardized transaction-tax interface data model and application-specific data models that are different from the standardized transaction-tax-interface data model but mapped to or from such standardized model.

Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 14, and the alleged inherency in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 14 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and dependent claims 15-17 are allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.

Furthermore, regarding claim 15, the Office Action (p. 3) rejected this claim with a brief and general allegation that "Sullivan shows a memory device comprising for instance a hard drive of a computer housing all claimed information." It is respectfully submitted that Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses a transaction-tax interface data model that is defined as claimed, that is,

"so as to provide data elements at least for a first jurisdiction and a second jurisdiction, wherein the transaction-tax interface data model has at least one first data element which is used for the first jurisdiction, but is not used for the second jurisdiction, and at least one second data element which is used for the second jurisdiction, but is not used for the first jurisdiction."

Should the Examiner continue to assert Sullivan to anticipate claim 15, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner distinctly point out those elements in Sullivan that anticipate each and every element in claim 15. Also, should the Examiner believe that any claimed element in claim 15 is inherently found in Sullivan, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provides the bases for such belief.

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Claims 18-23 and 27-30

Claim 18 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

wherein the first transaction-tax-related application uses a first application-specific data model different from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model, the software interface comprising a first mapping component for mapping data elements of the first application-specific data model to data elements according to the standardized transaction-tax interface data model, or vice versa.

The Office Action rejected claims 18 and 19 with brief and general allegations that Sullivan shows "an apparatus having a software interface for linking first and second tax related applications such that data are exchangeable according to a standard interface," and that, "each of the two transaction tax applications uses its own (different) application-specific data models since it handles different data, and the data elements of the respective data models are mapped to the interface data model." Yet, the Office Action failed to mention with any specificity as to which element in Sullivan is interpreted to be the claimed standardized transaction-tax interface data model.

As explained earlier with reference to amended claim 7, Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model.

Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 18, and the alleged inherency in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 18 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 and dependent claims 19-23 and 27-30 are allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.



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Claims 24-26 and 31-34

Claim 24 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

wherein the standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model is different from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model, the standardized transaction-tax data warehouse data model comprises a first mapping component for mapping data elements of the first application-specific data model to data elements according to the standardized transaction-tax interface data model, or vice versa.

As explained earlier with reference to amended claim 7, Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model.

Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 24, and the alleged inherency in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 24 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 and dependent claims 25, 26, and 31-34 are allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.

Claim 35

Claim 35 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

wherein the application uses a first application-specific data model and the second transaction-tax-related application uses a second application-specific data model, the first and second application specific data models are different from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model; and wherein one of the first and second application specific data models is mapped to the standardized transaction-tax interface data model.

As explained earlier with reference to amended claim 7, Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model.

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Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 35, and the alleged inherency in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 35 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim is requested.

**Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102, or In the Alternative, Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

As explained earlier, anticipation for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.

The test for determining if a claim is rendered obvious by one or more references for purposes of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is set forth in MPEP §706.02(j):

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaack*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Therefore, if the above-identified criteria are not met, then the cited reference(s) fails to render obvious the claimed invention and, thus, the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited reference(s).

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**Claims 1-6 and 10-13**

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sullivan.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

... the standardized transaction-tax interface data model provides an interface model which enables communications between the first transaction-tax-related application [of the first program controlled apparatus] and the second transaction-tax-related application [of the second program controlled apparatus];

wherein the first transaction-tax-related application uses a first application-specific data model different from the standardized transaction-tax interface data model...

As explained earlier with reference to amended claim 7, Sullivan neither explicitly nor inherently disclose a application-specific data model that is mapped to or from the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model.

The Office Action (p. 5) alternatively rejected claim 1 because "it is notoriously old and well known in the art to place different software modules on separate network machines. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Sullivan by placing at least one different application on a different server in order to minimize the storage and processing load on each machine." It is respectfully submitted that while it is notoriously old and well known in the art to place different software modules on separate network machines, it is also desirable to have the different software modules use the same data model to avoid any conflicts in the transfer of data among the modules. Therefore, it would NOT have been obvious to modify Sullivan by having different data models for the different software modules because such modification further complicates the overall system in Sullivan. Indeed, Sullivan's goal is to ease transaction tax compliance burdens, as stated

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in paragraph [0005]; thus, Sullivan actually teaches away from over-complicating an underlying system that is supposedly designed to ease the transaction tax compliance burdens.

Amended claim 1 further recites that the mapping includes,

reading an output mapping definition;  
deriving source information from the data elements of the first application-specific data model based on the read output mapping definition; and  
mapping the source information to the data elements of the standardized transaction-tax interface model.

It is respectfully submitted that because Sullivan neither explicitly, inherently, nor obviously discloses multiple application-specific data models that are mapped to or from the standardized-transaction-tax interface data model, it follows that Sullivan also does not disclose the aforementioned details of the mapping.

Because Sullivan fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1, and the alleged inherency and obviousness in Sullivan for various claimed features recited in amended claim 1 is without basis in Sullivan, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 and 10-13 are allowable over the references of record, and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim is requested.

**Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please

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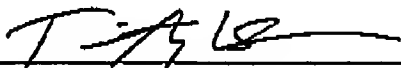
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grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request  
to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 19, 2005

By



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